

**HUMAN NEUROANATOMY—3rd Edition.** Oliver S. Strong, Late Professor of Neurology and Neurohistology, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University; and Adolph Elwyn, Associate Professor of Neuroanatomy, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1953. 481 pages, \$7.50.

This textbook has been kept well abreast of the times by the publication of three editions since it was first introduced in 1943. There has, however, been sufficient progress in the field of neuroanatomy to justify the frequent revisions. Increased interest, based on physiological and clinical research, in the thalamic nuclei and the reticular activating system, is responsible for much work on these structures, and the present edition presents the results of this research. The text is clear, and the illustrations and diagrams are well chosen and nicely reproduced. The diagrams are particularly to be commended to the student for their clarity and lack of complicating detail. Consideration is given to function as well as structure, so that a good deal of physiology finds its way into the text, adding to its interest. This book can be recommended both to the medical student and the practitioner who wants a reference work containing more anatomical detail than is found in the usual textbook of clinical neurology.

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**PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS—A Handbook for Students and Practitioners—3rd Ed.** R. Y. Keers, M.D., F.R.C.P.(Edin.), F.R.F.P.S.(Glas.), F.R.S.E., Medical Director, Red Cross Sanatoria of Scotland; and B. G. Rigden, M.R.C.S.(Eng.), L.R.C.P.(Lond.), Physician, Lewes Chest Clinic. E. & S. Livingstone, Ltd., Edinburgh. Distributed by Williams and Wilkins Co., 1953. 324 pages, \$5.50.

Concepts of pulmonary tuberculosis have undergone revolutionary revision during the past few years, and there is no volume available at this time which covers the problem adequately. The present edition of this work is surely among the best, and, although it is of British origin, the ideas expressed are usually similar to those currently held in America. A majority of physicians in America would not agree that phrenic nerve interruption should usually accompany pneumoperitoneum. Specific drug therapy is described briefly, but the long term treatment (in excess of one year) currently popular, is not discussed.

Many important topics are dealt with very briefly, for this is a small book, but unfortunately the reader is not referred to original sources of more complete information, for there is no bibliography.

If every physician should read this book from cover to cover, he would gain a clear concept of this most important infectious disease far superior to that of his average colleague. It can easily be read in a few evenings, and the task is a pleasant one for the literary style is very clear, direct and completely understandable at first reading.

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**TEXTBOOK OF PUBLIC HEALTH (Formerly Hope and Stallybrass)—13th Ed.** W. M. Frazer, O.B.E., M.D., Ch.B., M.Sc., D.P.H., Barrister-at-Law, Gray's Inn; Medical Officer of Health, City and Port of Liverpool, Professor of Public Health, University of Liverpool, The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1953. 663 pages, \$8.50.

This brief but comprehensive Textbook of Public Health is especially interesting in its 13th edition because of its inclusion of the changes in public health program and practice in Great Britain brought about by the adoption of the National Health Service Act of 1946 (which was put into effect in 1948). The author is professor of public health at the University of London and health officer of the City of Liverpool, a man well equipped to discuss both principles of preventive medicine and practice of public health.

The book reveals that both the practice of and attitude towards many specific public health procedures is markedly different in the United States and Great Britain. For example, British public health students are still instructed in disinfection of rooms by gas and liquid with specific reference to formalin—which Americans abandoned long ago in favor of soapy water, scrubbing and sunshine. There is an interesting contrast between the theoretically advanced nationalized medical and health programs of the National Health Service Act and the termination of all compulsory vaccination by the repeal of vaccination laws in that act. This contrast is further illustrated by the picture of tuberculosis. Forty percent of the cows in England and Wales are infected with tuberculosis; 3 per cent of these are known to be capable of infecting milk. It is estimated that 2,000 human deaths occur annually from non-pulmonary tuberculosis contracted from raw milk, as well as about 4,000 fresh cases each year.

This volume is valuable to anyone who wishes to get a summary view of the developing scene of public health (and to a certain extent of medicine generally in the British Isles). It should also prove a sound textbook for the British student even though he will have to plow through much official statement.

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**TEXTBOOK OF GYNECOLOGY—2nd Edition.** John I. Brewer, B.S., M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Northwestern University Medical School, The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1953. 532 pages, \$10.00.

This volume is an expanded second edition of an undergraduate text first published in 1950 by Thomas Nelson & Sons and at that time distastefully subtitled "The Teachings of John I. Brewer." The author believes that gynecology should be taught almost wholly from the standpoint of symptoms, and in his first edition he attempted to present the entire subject in that fashion. In this new edition, however, he has been persuaded to devote the first half of the book to orthodox, concise descriptions of the more common gynecologic disorders. For the most part this material is well presented and the portions of the text dealing with pathology are particularly good, owing to the author's interest in this phase of gynecology. Part II is a somewhat condensed version of the original book and utilizes the same wordy chapter headings, beneath each of which one finds a lengthy list of the diagnostic possibilities to be considered when confronted by the symptoms noted at the top of the page. Obviously a good deal of repetition is necessary in order to cover the ground in two lengthy chapters which are entitled, respectively, "Abnormal Uterine Bleeding with Tumor and Without Tumor" and "Abnormal Uterine Bleeding and Pain with Tumor and Without Tumor." But the author believes that repetition is good pedagogy and justifies the pattern of his presentation on this basis. Some of the other chapters are not so complex and cover such standard items as dysmenorrhea, amenorrhea, sterility, leukorrhea, and the climacteric. To complete the list, there are a few other chapters in which well known lesions are hiding under such confusing titles as, for example, "Bearing-down Discomfort; Mass Protruding from the Vagina." In brief, all the important things are here, but it takes a bit of sleuthing to find them.

This edition contains more than twice as many illustrations as the original volume, but somewhat less than a hundred additional pages. While most of the photographs of microscopic preparations and gross surgical specimens are very good, some of the views of operative fields are marred by the inclusion of too many extraneous items. It would appear, too, that some of the photographs have suffered in quality while being converted from colored transparencies to black and white prints.